

# THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 80, Number 60

Wearing cologne since 1911.

Wednesday, January 30, 1991

## Damn the dam



Equipped with snow shovels and bottles filled with beet juice (safer than paint), about a dozen activists from the McGill Damn the Dam coalition built a miniature hydro dam to protest Hydro-Québec's plans to build Phase II of the James Bay hydro-electric project. The Cree and the Inuit of the area oppose the project, along with a coalition of other environmentalists.

## McGill banks on graduate students

by Michelle Cooper

Fewer undergraduate students would vastly improve McGill's standards, according to a University committee. But some students say such 'standards' are misguided, and could only be achieved at the expense of accessibility.

McGill's Task Force on Priorities, in the final draft of a year-old report, recommends lowering undergraduate enrolment over the next decade to remedy McGill's underfunding crisis.

The report says this would reduce McGill's student-faculty ratio, increase space, and improve resources.

But others disagree. "The entire direction of the Task Force is misguided insofar as it isn't exploring ways in which post-secondary education can be extended to all sectors of society," said anthropology student Brian Schnarch.

The Task Force also recommends increasing graduate enrolment to one-third of McGill's student population. The Québec government pours greater resources into graduate studies through research.

Schnarch said, "The concentration on graduate studies is elitist considering the percentage of Quebecers who even get to University. It severely limits accessibility to education for all sectors of society."

The report recommends increasing McGill's graduate population by 1000 in the next ten years, and reducing undergraduate enrolment by an equivalent amount.

At last week's Board of Governors meeting, Principal Johnston announced that total enrolment has already decreased slightly this semester, primarily because of higher admission standards, he said.

Students' Society President Kate Morisset defended the report.

"It's not going to have a dramatic effect. The university's goal is for both gradu-

ates and undergraduates to get the best education," she said.

The Task Force also maintains that McGill's reputation as a leading institution depends on its traditional strengths, which must be maintained even at the expense of less prestigious faculties.

The Board of Governors will hear the Task Force's proposals next month.

## Christie speaks in mute court

by Carl Wilson

McGill law students invited lawyer Doug Christie to speak at Moot Court today, but they don't want the event publicized.

Christie defended both Jim Keegstra and Ernst Zundel in court for their denial of the holocaust and Jewish conspiracy doctrines. Forum National, a law students' group, invited Christie to speak about the legalities of freedom of expression.

Bram Freedman, president of the Law Students' Association (LSA), said Forum National has only publicized Christie's visit within the faculty, because "they don't want this to turn into a free-for-all."

Christie is known for his belief in freedom of expression. But he has also proved sympathetic to his clients' views on occasion.

Non-students and especially outside media will not be allowed access to Christie's

talk. McGill students will be allowed in, but law students will have first priority.

"We're going to use our judgement," said Freedman.

The hush-up follows internal controversy in the law faculty surrounding Christie's visit. Freedman said the LSA held an open meeting Monday to hear students' objections to Christie, but decided in the end to proceed with the event.

The LSA has received letters from Hillel and several individuals on campus opposed to Christie's visit. One law professor sent the LSA a formal complaint.

"Many people find Christie objectionable, but he is not here to expound his views or those of his clients. We want to debate freedom of expression," Freedman said.

Christie is speaking today at 12h in Chancellor Day Hall.

## PQ resolution plots sovereignty swap

by Andrea Bain

In an effort to overhaul its image as a one-issue party, 1500 members of the Parti Québécois recently adopted a resolution to recognize First Nations autonomy within a sovereign Québec.

Under the resolution, First Nations wishing to form autonomous governments would be given jurisdiction over key areas, including education, language, health, citizenship, taxation and economic development.

"They are looking to establish an operational mode to deal with First Nations demands, and building Québec with the consensus of the 11 First Nations of Québec," said Daniel Paul of the Assembly of First Nations at Concordia University.

Paul said First Nations should treat the resolution with caution.

"They have opened a door, but there is no coherence to their approach," he said. "Looking back at history, Jacques Parizeau was among the first to call for the army during the events at Oka last summer. Then, two weeks ago he called for an environmental study of the route to James Bay, looking for support from the Crees."

The resolution to grant natives sovereignty in an independent Québec was the most contentious of 847 resolutions before delegates at the party's 11th National Convention in Québec City.

As native representatives watched, several speakers supported the resolution which includes a proposal to give natives economic control of their territory.

Natives would also be directly involved in managing environmental policy related to natural resources and traditional ways of life.

The motion passed by a wide majority despite some opposition. After the vote, delegates gathered around the observers in a show of support.

Native spokesperson Andrew Delisle said, "The problem that Mohawk people have had in the past is governments talk to us, but they already have the objective set. We want to sit down and talk and find a solution - not have a solution imposed upon us."

But Delisle said the PQ was more willing to listen to native concerns than the Liberal government.

"Premier Bourassa has an interpretation of sovereignty from Europe and England where the king runs everything, and that's not our interpretation of sovereignty. Our interpretation is, one nation is sovereign, the other nation is sovereign...we all work together and help each other to form one unit."

Paul said the PQ resolution does not escape past problems created by government solutions.

"There is no representation for First Nations in parliament. We have always asked for the right to tax our own territory, to govern our own territory. And once again we find ourselves in the position of being faced by a dominant power telling us 'this is what we will give you'," he said.

"But at least they are examining the question," said Paul.

Delisle said Mohawk demands last summer were not absolute. "We want the government to listen to our ideas of laws, justice and cultural development. We'll listen to their ideas and we'll tie them together. Then they'll understand there's no danger in preserving one's culture and one's way of doing things."

Delisle responded to charges from one delegate who claimed natives already have too many privileges.

"It's not us who made the law that we don't pay tax or live on reservations. Then we're told that we're asking too much. I think the PQ will change that. Now, we're working together before the PQ comes into power and will find the solution before the fact so nothing will be changed in the future."

The Parti Québécois officially recognizes the Algonquin, Attikamek, Cree, Hurons, Micmacs, Mohawks, Montagnaise, Naskapie and the Inuit.

DAILY PHOTO: KATERINA CIZEK



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# McGill Student Pugwash Presents A Conference on **ENERGY USE**

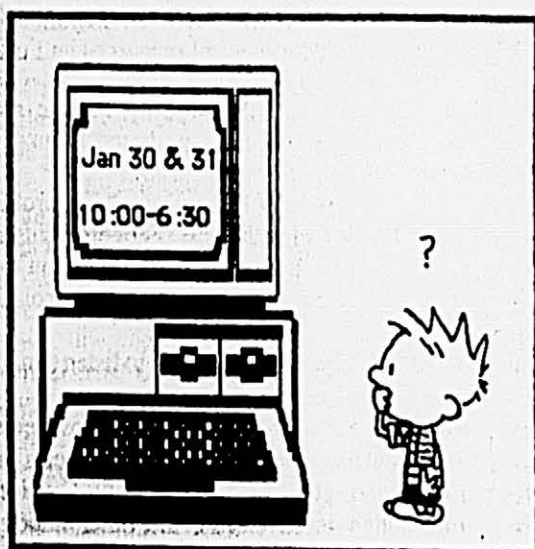
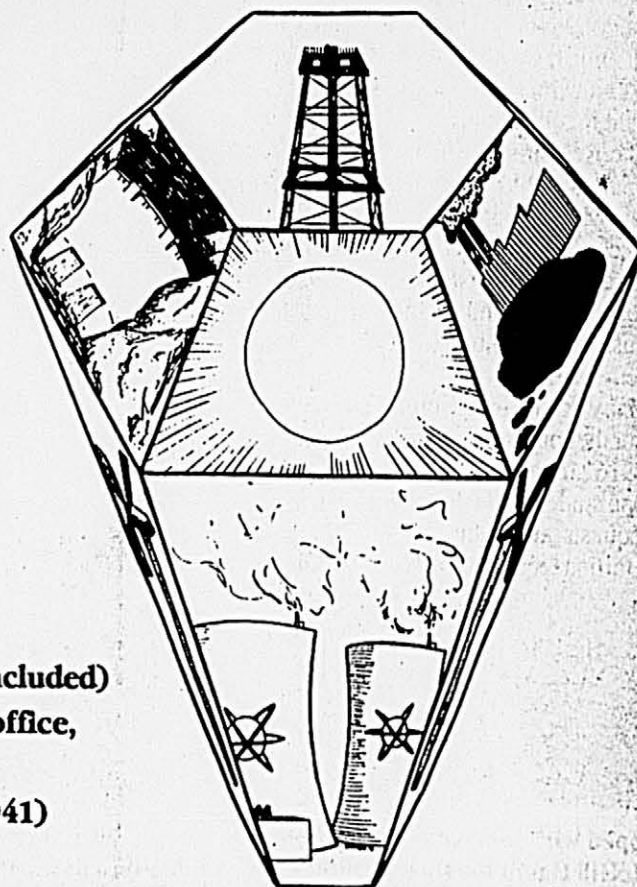
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# COMPUTER EXPO

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### WHEN?

On January 30th and 31st, from 10:00 am - 6:30 pm, COOP McGill will be holding a Computer Expo for all the students and staff of McGill University.

### WHERE?

The Student Union Ballroom.  
3480 McTavish

### WHO WILL BE THERE?

Representatives from various computer companies will be located at booths in the Ballroom.

### SPEECHES AND CONFERENCES

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### TECHNOLOGICAL TRENDS

The event will be filled with valuable information on the latest technological trends in the world of computers.

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COOP McGill, MacDonald Engineering Building  
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## MARS: planet or financial black hole?

by Melanie Rock

MARS was created to take the hassle out of course change. But for some students, McGill's new computerized registration system has been pure hell.

"The MARS system is fabulous," said McGill Recorder Joan Hagerman. "It puts less stress on staff, and on students."

But on January 21, the day after Drop/Add week ended, Dawson Hall advisers were harried all day by students who had not yet finalized their courseloads.

The Registrar's office reports that 42 Arts and Science students withdrew from courses on last Monday alone.

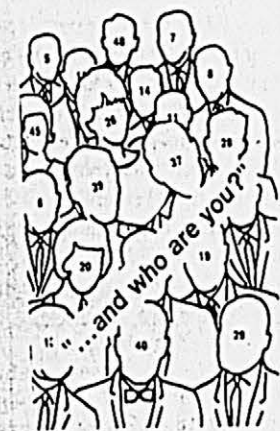
According to McGill rules, students who withdraw from courses after Drop/Add week do not receive refunds. If they manage to obtain permission to substitute courses, they must pay twice.

Many students are outraged they have to pay for the confusion. Arts and Sciences courses cost \$162.03 each.

One student, who has filed a grievance and so requests anonymity, said, "It's extortion. First tuition fees went up. Now the bureaucracy

is hassling us by demanding an exorbitant amount if we don't meet the administration's deadlines."

Education and Management students were allowed a day of grace, and permitted to Drop/Add January 21. Students in Engineering, Arts and Science were not.



Many students are also upset because courses dropped after the deadline are permanently recorded on student transcripts as a 'W'.

But Hagerman said students who had not made changes by the deadline cannot be excused. "We warned students not to wait until the last minute."

Hagerman said students should have picked up MARS worksheets designed to help them use the system. She said more people picked them up in the fall, when MARS was fully operational for the first time.

The fine print at the bottom of the MARS Course Registration Worksheet makes it clear the onus is on the student: "Misunderstanding or misapprehension will not be accepted as a cause for dispensation from any regulation, deadline, program or degree requirement."

## Women's studies major in the works

by Catherine Cooper

McGill students may soon be able to take Women's studies as a major, thanks to increased enrolment in the minor program and the dedication of a few students.

"What's interesting is the tremendous support from the students," said Peta Tancred, director of McGill's Centre for Research and Teaching on Women.

McGill offers only a minor concentration in women's studies through the Arts faculty, at present. But enrolment in this program is up from 60 students last year to 85 students this year. Around 10 per cent of these students are men.

While the existing inter-disciplinary program provides a central focus on women's issues, it is limited to a few introductory courses and 15 higher level courses, none more advanced than the 400 level.

Tentatively, the new program will offer upper level courses and be increasingly inter-disciplinary.

"It would include a requirement that students take courses from outside the program - right across the spectrum," said Tancred.

But Tancred said the new major is only in the planning stage. It must be approved by both the University and the provincial government. In fact the women's studies major is not likely to be implemented before 1992.

"It has been 10 years since the minor program was implemented - thanks to the students the major's time has come," said Tancred.

In the duration some students have been permitted to enroll in self-styled women's studies concentrations, by submitting proposals outlining their program to the Faculty of Arts.

"If I had known the ad personan (self-styled program) was possible I would have done it too," said Vivian May, a U4 Arts Major who sits on the Centre for Research and Teaching on Women Advisory Committee.

May said there is a lot of enthusiasm for a major program amongst students she has talked to.

"There is high registration in Women's Studies courses in general and the students want more," said May.



DAILY PHOTO: BRIGITTE HERZ

Peta Tancred: new major only in planning stage.

## Council backs off affirmative action

by Kathleen Hickey

Students' Society sends its revamped constitution to referendum this spring, but council could decide Thursday to keep affirmative action out of the package.

The affirmative action clause was originally meant to be voted on as part of the new constitution, but Students' Society may decide to split the two issues on the referendum. This has upset

some groups on campus.

If the referendum favours the affirmative action clause it would then be included in the new constitution.

Students' Society President Kate Morisset calls this democratic. "It gives students the greatest choice possible."

Morisset said a dual referendum would protect the clause if the new constitution doesn't pass.

But she did not address the possibility that the affirmative action clause might fail on its own.

According to Monica Brennan of the Affirmative Action Coalition, "they're putting the affirmative action clause at risk."

"It should be an integral part of the new constitution and the whole thing should be put to referendum," Brennan said. She

said that work on the "yes" campaign will take time away from other issues the Women's Union is working on.

The affirmative action clause states that the Students' Society supports groups and activities "devoted to the well-being" of those disadvantaged by race, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, social class and other factors.

### CITY COUNCIL BRIEFS

#### Doré says "no" to peace

Montréal, the nuclear free-zone, is not prepared to proclaim peace, Mayor Doré told City Council last night. He said he didn't want to divide the city and transform it into another Canadian parliament.

Members of Montréal's Anti-war Coalition asked council to make a forceful declaration against the Gulf war.

"We want the city to denounce war strongly as Montréal is a city of international reputation and has a strong anti-militaristic history," said coalition member Fred

Henderson.

Henderson's group asked Council to pressure other levels of government to listen to popular opinion. "It has to start at the grassroots level," he said.

City Councillor Marvin Rotrand said he read Doré's statement over eight times and still doesn't understand it. Doré was a well-known peace activist in his lefty incarnation, said Rotrand.

#### Who needs more bars?

The city has passed a motion to limit the number of bar licences on St. Laurent with little debate.

Residents and other businesses in the area have complained about the extra noise, parking, traffic and crime with an increase of some 20 bars in the last few years.

Existing bars from Sherbrooke northward will continue their tradition of debauchery in Gentrification Land.

#### More City Zoning

Councillors from left to right are supporting the city's initiative to zone Parc Ave between Mt. Royal and Van Horne for residences only.

But not without reservation. According to Rotrand, merchants have

legitimate concerns about the city's lack of consultation on this matter. Several citizens spoke out against the new zoning law which would remove the perceived threat to housing by Montréal's expanding commercial sector.

The Executive told concerned citizens the District Advisory Committee in the area had already informed merchants of the zoning changes.

#### Peaceniks Storm Council

Another crop of Montréal peace activists clad in black armbands were at City Hall Monday night.

Representatives of the Rassemblement pour L'Amitié Mondiale (RAM) were among the Coalition members calling for Peace en ville. RAM members wear their armbands in solidarity with other international activists to sensitize people about the war.

For more information call 842-6999.

City council meetings take place once a month at 275 Notre-Dame E. Citizen's questions are welcomed, but must be pre-selected. The next Council Meeting will take place March 4.

—Stephanie Conway



# THE MCGILL DAILY

## LETTERS

### Double standard

To the Daily:

Re: Jason MacLellan's letter "Anti-war activists deluded?" in Jan. 23 issue of the *Daily*.

Jason MacLellan speaks for many (e.g. Bush, Mulroney) when he calls for "justice" in the case of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Indeed, those who support the Persian Gulf war claim that the American-led force was and is compelled by this virtue to militarily oppose this act of aggression; they demand that the international law be upheld.

Surely it is the case that justice is a good thing, and that the world would greatly benefit from a "new order" whereby no country or group is permitted to violate the international law. However, Mr. MacLellan *et al* seems to have a disturbingly limited - or rather duplicitous - idea of international justice.

I am referring to the existing double standard in the application of international law. That is, it is the case that both the Bush administration and the Mulroney government have hitherto condoned several crimes of international aggression.

For example, both leaderships disregard the respective U.N. resolutions calling for Israel and Indonesia to withdraw from certain (brutally) occupied territories.

In fact, American itself violated international law when it invaded Viet Nam, Grenada and Panama, and also when it bombed Cambodia and Libya.

As we know, few, if any, pro-war people have ever had anything to say against the above policies and actions.

Perhaps the event which most clearly exposes the aforementioned double standard occurred in 1985, when the U.N.'s World Court ruled by a vast margin that the U.S. pay \$12.2 billion in reparation for its military involvement in Nicaragua. Of course, the U.S. still refuses to pay anything, and, of course, we have not heard so much as a peep from Mulroney and his bunch.

The campaign for international justice must begin with the recognition of the most virulent enemies of this justice.

Mat McMurtry  
Philosophy U2



### More on Media

To the Daily:

In response to "Anti-Arab media show a one-sided war" I am disappointed in Ms. Saigol's tendencies to resort to the same oversimplifications, inaccuracies, and biases of which she accuses Western media. She does not present the "unbiased truth" to which

journalism should aspire.

She presents Weston's view that there is a pro-American, pro-Israeli bias in media because "editors here presume that the Montréal Jewish community is monolithically supporting Israel".

Do only Montréal Jews read the paper? I am certain that Montréal editors are aware that they cater to an audience greater than one half percent of the population.

It is not surprising that there has been strong support for Israel in the past few weeks in the face of the repeated unprovoked missile attacks which it has quietly sustained. Any peace-lover should appreciate that Israel has refrained from augmenting this war.

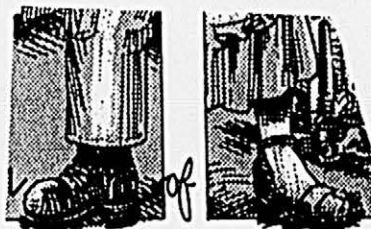
Ms. Saigol's emotions may have gotten the upper hand in proclaiming that the Arabs "see themselves as one people and one land." Arab nationalism is a loose ideal which lacks definitive cohesion.

The aim of the invasion of Kuwait was not the unification of Arab peoples, unless, of course, under the flag of Greater Iraq. I know of no Kuwaitis who asked to relinquish their homeland and be a part of Iraq.

In addition, the stark political reality is that the 22 Arab nations are not standing together as one. Did Ms. Saigol forget that Egyptian, Saudi, Syrian, and other Arab soldiers are fighting against the Iraqi forces? They certainly are not portrayed as Saddam Husseins in the media as Ms. Saigol seems to imply.

"Ask no questions and we'll tell you lies anyway." Unfortunately Ms. Saigol seems to fall victim of the philosophy she attributes to mainstream media.

Fanny H.-Ringskog  
BSc. U2



### Anti-war, not anti-American

To the Daily:

In response to Don Sutherland ("Don't blame America", January 28): I am not a "she": Jan (pronounced Yan) is the Polish form of John.

I do not hate the American people. Indeed, I admire those brave Americans who oppose George Bush and his criminal war, as I admire those heroic Germans who had opposed Adolf Hitler, as I admire those courageous Jews who speak out against Israeli Government's apartheid treatment of Palestinians. I do hate the American Government, and even more its Canadian quislings.

As to evidence for America qualifying as the most brutal enemy of humanity since the fall of Nazi Germany: Forget Hiroshima, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama. Forget CIA-sponsored Contra atrocities in Central America. The

### Contributors

Ethan Allen, Andrea Bain, Catherine Cooper, Michelle Cooper, Brigitte Herz, Jens Kohler, Colleen Lashuk, Robin LeBaron, Muna Nabhan, Dan Robins, Melanie Rock, Alex Roslin.

DAILY GRAPHIC: ETHAN ALLEN



## LETTERS

American Blitzkrieg against Iraq in no way differs from Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939. The TV is only beginning to show us the horrors.

"Not that war has begun..." says Mr. Sutherland. The war has not begun by itself. Someone has begun it: George Bush.

Mr. Sutherland expresses his readiness to help in the war "to drive the Iraqis from Kuwait". I wonder, would he be as ready to help in a war to drive Israelis from West Bank and Gaza?

Jan W. Weryho  
Islamic Studies  
Cataloguer

### The long history of anti-semitism

To the Daily:

To all those that proclaim: "Zionism is racism," it is. But we think that those bathroom politicians who have scrawled this on the stalls have not realized the full dimension of this statement.

Zionism is a reaction to thousands of years of racism directed towards the Jewish people. Remnants are scribbled

on the stalls: "I hope the Germans kill all you fucking Jews!" (More original bashing could read "Bring the Russian pogroms!" or "The Inquisition was right!")

European intellectuals who founded Zionism preferred assimilation but, in light of anti-semitism, this was impossible. In addition, they rejected all forms of nationalism but, in light of anti-semitism, this too was impossible.

Israel's "birth" was more abrupt, not as "natural" as most countries'. The 1948 War of Independence marked an extreme and bloody creation. Israel's survival in the midst of enemies has also been bloody. In order to survive in a racist environment, it had to be racist in return.

The formation of the Jewish state was the result of anti-semitism against both the semitic cultures: the Jewish as well as the Arab people. The Islamic culture has long been oppressed by the West. Out of this disregard, in 1948, the UN issued Arab populated land to the Jews.

Again, the present situation is, in part, a result of the West's cool manipulation of the heated passions of the Middle East. For economic and strategic gains, President Bush has taken a leadership role in the Persian Gulf war and our media backs him up by denouncing Saddam Hussein as being a "diabolical man".

During a time of turmoil in the Middle East, the overt racist sentiments are staggering. Both semitic cultures have had to take extreme measures to protect their uniqueness in a Christian world. A full understanding of this would lead to more compassion. Beware of the implications of your prejudice.

Madelyn Kent  
Arts U2  
Suzanne Stelg  
Arts U2

### Recycling bin demolished

To the Daily:

A special thanks to the people who used a paper recycling bin to carry snow for their sculpture and left it in the middle of McTavish Street. Your sense of ingenuity is impeccable. Your sculpture, remarkable. But your sense of responsibility is disgraceful.

Someone was kind enough to give us a call so we could pick it up, but unfortunately it is broken and unusable. Bottom line, we are out of a bin and you owe us forty bucks.

Claude Lahale  
Manager  
Waste Management Program



Greg Allon, this is your last warning. If you are unable to chop your letter in half, it will meet an unspeakable fate.

Also, would Arjun Singh, Jonathan Ari Shine and Yaron Starosta come down to perform a parapaghetomy or two? The letters are a wee bit over the 300 word limit, and hafta be cut.



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The Middle East after the war

# Will the Desert Storm ever blow over?

*The U.S. war against Iraq will have dramatic consequences for the whole Middle East, according to Abdul-Malik Al-Jabir, president of the General Union of Palestinian Students, who spoke at the Troops Out teach-in on Monday.*

*The U.S. claims that the war is going according to plan. But in the long run, they will not be able to control social and political forces in the Middle East, Al-Jabir told the Daily.*

by Alex Roslin and Lina Saigol

**Daily: Do you have family in the Middle East?**

Al-Jabir: My whole family is living there. I have two uncles in Kuwait City. I have a sister living in Dahrhan, Saudi Arabia, close to a large American airbase. The rest of my family is living in Jordan and the West Bank. With the way the war is going, I can't believe it's not going to spread. I could end up losing my whole family.

The ones in Kuwait City, I haven't heard anything from them. I don't even know if they are alive. My family in the West Bank has now been under curfew for fourteen days.

I spoke with my sister in Saudi Arabia several times. She is very scared, especially because she is pregnant. I tried to get her out of Saudi Arabia in December. The Canadian embassy told her she could come only after the January 15 deadline. She is still there.

I don't think it's fair for a baby to see this world it will live in.

It seems many Arabs in Montréal are desperate to know the latest news from the Middle East, and also more aware than ever of their own powerlessness. How have you learned to cope with these feelings?

We have been powerless for so long, living under occupation for so many years and in the refugee camps. When I was a boy, I saw soldiers breaking into my father's house night after night, arresting my father, beating him, humiliating him in front of my eyes. I couldn't do anything. My mother couldn't do anything. This is the way we have been living.

Now, the Middle East has become a testing field for American high-tech weapons. The Americans are very excited. But I think this is the most dangerous and critical period the Arab nation and the Palestinians are passing through.

When the war started, I felt powerless because I couldn't imagine the world had come to this barbaric stage. You want to talk about how you feel - that you might lose your family. But you are afraid of the racism in this society. If you speak out you may be attacked or harassed.

Still, we have the responsibility to tell Canadians and the whole international community that since they have done something about the occupation of Kuwait, the Palestinians are counting on them also to oppose the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

**The media has been accused of misrepresenting the situation in the Gulf. What are some of the worst lies you have heard?**

The whole situation is full of lies.

They said the war is about U.N. resolutions and the human rights of Kuwaitis. The American government should be the last one to speak about human rights.

Forget the Third World; the UN could spend the next ten years investigating human-rights violations in the U.S. itself. When they speak about invading small countries, what do they call invading Panama, Grenada, Nicaragua, Angola and so on?

I am against Saddam Hussein's occupation of Kuwait - in my view he is a dictator and a murderer - but when people talk about human rights and invasions it always depends on some other agenda. If we have to have oil for human rights, maybe we should have spent the last 23 years of occupation digging for oil in Palestine.

Another lie is that the U.S. was trying to settle the problem peacefully with sanctions. It is well-known that they were just looking for excuses to be in the Gulf. The war plans the U.S. are following today were put in place long ago, when president Jimmy Carter was worried about Iran's threat to the Gulf oil.



**Do you think the West has also misrepresented Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein?**

It's a matter of principle for Palestinians that we don't accept invasions and occupations of any lands. We are against the invasion of Kuwait. Even if we don't agree with the Kuwaiti regime, it is the business of the Kuwaitis to decide what regime they are going to choose.

The only choice Palestinians have is to oppose the American invasion of Arab lands. We have been suffering from these invasions for centuries. And the American invasion

will be the worst one. Everybody knows what the Americans will do in the area. Even the Kuwaitis are worrying that after they get rid of Saddam Hussein, they will be stuck with the Americans.

Not only are the Palestinians against the United States, but so are most people in the whole Third World because they are sick of this nonsense. The U.S. hasn't realized that the world doesn't see it as a beacon of democracy, and it will probably find out too late.

When the war started, some regimes in the Middle East started thinking twice about the U.S. presence. Iran's government was the most recent to call for a ceasefire this week and Egypt recently expressed concern about the bombing of Baghdad. Are these regimes responding to rising anger among Arabic peoples?

The situation in Egypt is very tense. The regime is very far from being democratic. The people of Egypt know what the Americans are doing, and that their government has become the newest department of the U.S. government.

They are suffering under \$45 billion of debt and the economy has stopped functioning. As one of my Egyptian friends said, the country has become a garbage dump. They live like animals.

In Syria too, which has a repressive dictatorship, the people are against the pro-U.S. stance of the regime.

If you look at the positions of all the Arab

East look like?

The destruction of Iraq is certainly a destabilizing factor in the area. Iraq shouldn't have all those weapons, but if we are going to demilitarize Iraq, we should do it in the whole region. The U.N. should demilitarize the whole Middle East - destroy all the chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, all the missiles. Not only Syria's, Saudi Arabia's and Iraq's, but the Israeli weapons too.

Without Iraq, there will be a power vacuum in the area. Also, many of the borders are going to be redrawn.

The situation in Lebanon, for example, scares me a lot. I doubt there will be an independent Lebanon. It is being divided between Israel and Syria with U.S. support.

Another tense area is Jordan, which is completely unstable now. It could explode at any moment. The government there may not be able to maintain the situation for even another month.

No one knows what the role of the area's superpower - Israel - will be after the war. The Israelis have always said there is nothing called Palestine and that the people of the West Bank should go to Jordan which they call the real Palestinian homeland.

If the war spreads beyond the Gulf, it is very probable that Israel will invade Jordan and occupy it. They will deport the Palestinians in the West Bank to Jordan. So far the international community has shown it will do little if the Palestinians are massacred and deported.

**For years, the West has sold arms to various Arab states, including Iraq. Why is western military support for Israel perceived as any worse?**

We have to understand the unique relationship between Israel and the United States. I consider Israel another state of the U.S. The support for Israel is unique because whichever government is in power in Israel, it will be supported by the Americans.

In Arabic countries, the U.S. supports only regimes which are serving American interests. Tomorrow, if the Americans find another leader in Egypt, for example, who will help them more than Hosni Mubarak, they will get rid of Mubarak.

Israel has traditionally been America's partner in testing high-technology weapons in actual war conditions. All the weapons the U.S. is using in the Gulf were tested in Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982. The Israelis also help the U.S. by selling arms to regimes in Latin America, to South Africa, China and training their armies.

**Saddam Hussein has called for holy war. What is the role of the Islamic religion in this crisis?**

Islam has always been used by Arabic regimes to suppress the people and to support political ends. Islam is not only being used by Saddam Hussein, but by the Saudis, the Jordanians, the Syrians.

Islam is clearly not a religion of bloodshed and fighting, but a religion of forgiveness. It is stated in the Holy Ko'ran that you are not allowed to bring foreigners to fight against another Muslim country.

But the leaders of Saudi Arabia have tried to get around this in their support for the U.S. war. They have simply claimed Hussein is not a Muslim.

Still, Saudi Arabia is not going to be safe for the Americans because it is the most holy place for Muslims. I don't think the presence of American soldiers there is going to be accepted by the Muslims.

Many Muslims are curious to see what will happen during Hajjah, the three months of religious pilgrimage in the spring. It is stated very clearly in the Ko'ran that during this time Muslims must not engage in war. People are waiting to see how Saudi Arabia is going to interpret that.

regimes, it is the more democratic ones which oppose the U.S. In Jordan, where the government has taken steps toward parliamentary democracy, the government isn't supporting the U.S. The regimes in Yemen, Algeria, the PLO, and the others which are more democratic, are against the war.

The U.S. is trying to destroy Iraqi economic and military strength. The problem was never really Saddam Hussein. But if they destroy Iraq, do you think the old balance of power will disintegrate? What will Bush's "new order" in the Middle



# Arab Canadians fear racist backlash

by Muna Nabhan

Arab Canadians are speaking these days of a 'climate of intolerance' as worldwide tensions rising out of the Persian Gulf make their way to Canadian cities and towns.

Members of Montréal's Arab community are preoccupied and horrified by the events in the Gulf. They fear the local climate may soon threaten Arabs in Canada.

When war broke out in the Persian Gulf Adil sat before his television for three days until programming returned to normal. He did not sleep and barely ate while he watched bombs fall on his hometown, Baghdad.

"If someone had told me six months ago that this was going to happen, I would not have believed them," Adil said. He has been in Canada for more than ten years and will soon finish his PhD. "But, it's hard to concentrate when you know that your country is being destroyed. I have no idea what's happened to my family - they could be dead."

Adil's father, brother and sister-in-law are doctors. He thinks they may be in a Baghdad hospital caring for wounded civilians. But medical supplies are short after the six month embargo of Iraq.

"There is no more water and electricity in Baghdad. They even stopped the sale of gas. Most houses have no glass in their windows because of the heavy bombardment. It gets very cold there at this time of the year. People are fleeing Baghdad, but the multinational forces are bombing the highways."

Since January 16 Adil has tried frantically to contact his family but there is no way to get through. A Red Cross service is delivering messages to and from Iraq, but so far Adil has received no answer.

Adil and many of his Iraqi friends worry that Canada will declare them war enemies and intern or deport them. British authorities have taken nearly two hundred Iraqis and Palestinians into custody since September.

"Canadians should not do this to us. We are not planning any terrorist attacks. We just want to speak out against the total destruction of our country," Adil says the Canadian government should release esti-



mates of casualties so Canadians can assess their responsibility as participants. Many Arab Montréalers agree.

"Being against Saddam Hussein is one thing," said Lebanese-Canadian Faris, a member of Concordia's Arab Student Association, "but setting the existence of a country at stake is something else. They are destroying hydro plants, highways, the whole infrastructure and economy. How are Iraqis supposed to live after the war?"

Adil says that a country with Iraq's rich cultural heritage should not be bombed at all. "Iraq is the cradle of civilization. Writing was invented there. It's also the place where Abraham, the founding prophet of three religions came from. The first codified law was put down in Iraq by Hamurabi. How can they bomb our museums, our mosques, our churches?" Adil said.

Faris agrees that Iraqi culture must be protected. "The Arab people will never forgive their own leaders and the West for what they have done to Iraq," he said.

## Condemned nations

There are many concerns for Kuwait as well as Iraq. Kuwait is under heavy bombardment. Many Arabs ask themselves what will be left to liberate. The recently established Arab Council of Montréal has condemned both the invasion of Kuwait and the bombing of Iraq.

The Arab Council criticizes what it calls a double standard. "For many

years problems in the region have been ignored by the United Nations. Israel could do whatever it wanted to us and would have the support of the world," Palestinian Abdul Malik Al-Jabir, a member of the Arab Council said.

Faris agrees. "The United Nations did nothing about Israel's occupation of Palestinian land. They did not come and help us when the Israelis were throwing cluster bombs on Beirut. Now the U.S. is saying we have to destroy Saddam Hussein because he has nuclear and chemical weapons. But so does Israel."

Many Lebanese remember their own experiences as they watch the bombardment of Tel Aviv. "When the Israelis dropped bombs on us we had to stay awake and were afraid to, but there was hardly any media coverage," McGill student Muhammad said.

Some Arabs feel that the media's war coverage has not helped to create an understanding for their cause.

"I think (the media) are lazy, repeating all kinds of stereotypes about us. They are obsessed by the military footage. They make the whole thing look like a Rambo movie," Lebanese Concordia student Akram said.

The Arab community of Montréal blames the media for recent anti-Arab hostilities. "They are feeding fears among the population," said Egyptian-born Rachad Antonius.

One Syrian landlord has taken

steps to change people's views, according to one Montréaler. "When his tenants come to pay the rent he tells them: 'We Arabs gave you cheap oil and handed down to you the achievements of Greek and Arab scientists. And what is our reward? Blatant imperialism.'"

However, many Arabs say they are afraid anti-Arab sentiment might become a problem if the war lasts much longer. "I am simply afraid. I do not go home late because I don't feel safe any more," Abdul Malik Al-Jabir said.

Some have already had unpleasant experiences. Concordia Student Maha said that when the war broke out schoolmates told her eleven year old brother: "Our troops have gone to kill all Arab children."

"We told him, 'Don't believe them. It's not true.' What else could we say?"

According to Maha, "Whenever I hear students talk about war I keep quiet. Because I believe no matter what I say they will never understand us."

The greatest concern for many Arabs is what will happen after the war. They fear the entire region will change. Parts of Iraq could be easily annexed by neighbouring countries, some speculate.

While most Arabs condemn Saddam Hussein and his policy, they believe the war is creating more problems for the region. "Anything could happen now," said Lebanese McGill student Muhammad.

*Note: Most names in the article have been changed.*

## Union cafeteria now a politics-free zone

by Dan Robins

The moustachioed Margaret Thatcher has disappeared from Manchu Wok, along with a couple of waspy white kids, Corazon Aquino, and the flags of about a dozen nations.

Students' Society, in conjunction with Scott's Foods, has decided to be "sensitive."

They originally wanted to be multicultural, according to VP Finance Jane Howard. So, along with the Chinese food, they proffered flags and faces from a variety of nations around the world.

Flags were hand-painted, representing countries in all continents of the world, as well as Québec. The faces were of famous leaders, or of people deemed representative of their various cultures.

For instance, for America, there was a very waspy boy and a very waspy girl who Howard said were perhaps too "homogeneous." And for the Soviet Union, there was Mikhail Gorbachev.

There were those, however, who thought that the culturalism was too multi, or at least multi in the wrong way, and they proceeded to edit the display with ink and paint. The vultures descended.

As the Iron Lady gained a moustache, Canada and Québec ate each other in a flurry of nationalism, leaving behind only the U.S. Palestine disappeared, and Israel was left as the only Middle Eastern country represented.

In the end, the display's death knoll rang with the realization that it wasn't nearly as multi as people would have liked. "We got at least a couple of calls," said Howard. The callers feared that the situation would "aggravate global tensions," and had to be rectified.

"At this time we want to be sensitive," she said. "We would be insulting students otherwise."

There were two options: replace the marred flags, or take them all down. After consultation with the directors of Scott's Foods, the second option was selected. After all, the flags cost \$500 each, and replacing them would be a waste of Students' Society money.

But there were also problems with the people displayed, said Howard. They weren't as representative as some might want - for example, "there were not enough - perhaps - politically leftist people." And someone was bound to be insulted sooner or later.

So the faces were removed as well, leaving for the Manchu Wok experiment in multiculturalism only a blank wall and some bad Chinese food.

Anyone with ideas on how to fill in the blank space while being fully representational and sensitive should contact Jane Howard. She's at 398-6802, and is looking for ideas.

## EVENTS

### Wednesday 30 January

Computer Expo. FREE. Union Ballroom, 3480 McTavish. 10h.

A slide show about the different aspects of existing hydro projects on La Grande. FREE. The Alley, 3480 McTavish. 12h-14h.

"Brazil's Rainforests and the International Debt" is a workshop by members of the McGill community recently returned from Brazil. FREE. Birks Building, Senior Common Room. 13h30.

Hillel mini-course #1. "Judaism: An Introductory Crash Course" begins today and continues every week for the next six weeks. \$15.00/course. Info: 845-9171. Hillel House, 3460 Stanley. 14h30-16h.

"Isla Negra" is a video on Chilean poet Pablo Neruda and his work.

FREE. Union 310, 3480 McTavish. 15h.

"Churches in Conflict: Catholic and Protestant Experience During the 1980's" is a talk by Philip Berryman. FREE. Leacock 26. 16h.

McGill's Curtis Baker talks about neuropsychology. FREE. Info: 398-6094. Stewart Bio, Room S3/3, 1205 Docteur Penfield. 16h.

"El Salvador in 1991" is a talk by Victor Aguilar of Radio Farabundo Martí. Union 310, 3480 McTavish. 17h.

AIDS Forum: Q&A with people who know what they are talking about. FREE. Stewart Bio, Room S-14, 1205 Docteur Penfield. 17h.

Lesbian and Gay Employees of McGill are having their annual general meeting. Thomson House, 4th Floor

Board Room, 3650 McTavish. 17h30.

Hillel mini-course #2. "Journeys Thru Genesis: A Thematic Dig Into The Text". See above. 17h30-18h30.

"Diana's Hair Ego" is a film screening and info session on AIDS prevention in the black community. FREE. Info: 398-6815. Union 410, 3480 McTavish. 18h.

International Relations Society is meeting to hear Professor James. Moot Court, Law Building. 18h.

International Socialists are having a public meeting called "Israel and the Gulf Crisis". Info: 284-6834 or 271-6495. Bronfman, Room 57 (basement). 19h.

"Land of our Children", a film about the Cree of James Bay, is a presentation of the McGill Coalition to Stop James Bay II and the Film Soci-

ety. FREE. Leacock 132. 19h30.

"Who Owes Whom? The International Debt Crisis and its Human Costs" is a talk by Shelley Coleman and Ernie Schibli of the Social Justice Committee of Montréal. FREE. Union 302, 3480 McTavish. 19h30.

McGill Chamber Winds and McGill Wind Symphony play works by Dahl, Dvorak, Haydn and Jacobs. FREE. Pollack Hall, 555 Sherbrooke West. 20h.

Soprano Agnes McCarthy and harpsichordist Eric Trudel play a Masters Recital. FREE. Redpath Hall. 20h.

Who is Joaquin de Silentio? He is Søren Kierkegaard in disguise. Find out at the exhibit of books from his own personal library. But hurry, this is the second last day. McLennan Library lobby. Regular hours.



## CLASSIFIEDS

Ads may be placed through the Daily business office, room B-17, Union Building, 9h00 - 14h00. Deadline is 14h00, two days prior to date of publication.

McGill students: \$3.50 per day; \$2.50 for 3 consecutive days, \$2.25 for 4 or more consecutive days. McGill Faculty and Staff: \$4.50 per day. All others: \$5.00 per day. There is a 25 word limit. There will be a charge of 25¢ for each word over the limit. Boxed ads are available at \$4.00 per ad per day - no discounts on boxing. EXACT CHANGE ONLY PLEASE.

The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damage due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

### 341 - Apts., Rooms, Housing

Available - room immediately. Price negotiable, 1 min. from McGill, female preferred. Call 499-0043.

5 min. walk from McGill. Fully furnished room for rent. Everything included. Ideal for students. Call Mike at 284-1227.

4 1/2 to sublet. Nice and quiet building with elevator. Is included (heating, hot water, stove, fridge) \$600 a month. 2555 Hingston and Sherbrooke N.D.G.

(Amazing) A beautiful 3 1/2 in Peel Plaza (2 min. from McGill). Fully equipped kitchen, underground parking \$650 (all included) (sublet).

Sublet! Dr. Penfield apartment - option to take over lease - bright 4 1/2 with balcony, swimming pool - available May 1st - must see! \$800 - Utilities included - Call 989-7069.

Third needed for big, funky, sunny 7 1/2 in Westmount. Two blocks to metro, 20 minutes to McGill. Responsible but open-minded student. Ideal. Drug and pet positive. \$230/month 938-0383.

A most beautiful and spacious newly renovated 4 bedroom 8 1/2 available immediately. Close to the metro, university and the Atwater market. Just \$700/month. Call 527-3256.

### 343 - Movers/Storage

Moving/Storage. Closed van. Will transport you and your goods safely. Local and long distance. Cheap. Steve 735-8148.

Large Econoline Van - for moving local & long distance. Reliable with reasonable rates. Alex, 324-3794.

### 350 - Jobs

Bartenders - Get yourself a very lucrative part-time job. The Master School of Bartending offers training courses and placement service. 2021 Peel St. (Peel Metro). 849-2828 (student discounts).

Business opportunity. Career minded students only. High growth, realistic profit potential. One opportunity meeting only. Sat. Feb. 2nd, 1 pm. Call for reservation/small investment. (514) 284-6031.

### 352 - Help Wanted

Do the words, "We will keep your application on file" sound familiar? If so, this ad will change your financial situation. Full and part-timers wanted. Call Adele 955-0041.

Poll clerks and publicity people needed for McGill elections, March 12, 13, 14. Applications available at SSMU desk, Union bldg. (\$5.30/hour.)

Experienced secretary/typist required Feb. 1-15. Must type accurately and effectively in excellent English. 10-20 hours weekly. \$8-\$10 PH. Near Guy metro. Resumé to fax 481-5199 or P.O. box 9, Montreal H3Z 2Y4.

### 356 - Typing Services

Success to all students in 1990-91. Theses, term papers, resums, etc. Bilingual. 21 years of experience. 7 days a week. \$1.75 double spaced. IBM. On McGill Campus. Peel St. CALL Paulette Vigneault 288-9638 or Roxanne 288-0016.

Quality, fast service. Bilingual. Typing of theses & papers on WPerfect (\$3.00/page). Also translation of abstracts into French (\$0.15/word). France, 847-0765.

Word processing W.P. Bilingual. High quality work on term papers, research papers, manuscripts, theses, C.V., any documents. Francine (Pie IX/Jean Talon). 593-9851/Helene (Laval) 669-5037.

Need typing to be done - Call Eva at (934-8721).

Resumes by MBAs. Quality, service, satisfaction. Student discounts - Better Business Bureau member. See Yellow Pages ad. Prestige (on Guy), 939-2200.

### 361 - Articles for Sale

Charango and a pair of congas for sale - all in very good condition. For more info. call: 843-4185.

Leather jackets, new. Black or brown, all sizes. Great quality, only \$225 (no tax!) Call 848-0239 (anytime)

### 372 - Lost & Found

Red McGill Notebook lost on Jan. 22/91 in Biology Building class "Essential Biology 177-115B. If you have it phone me at 933-1899.

Help! I've lost my text agenda and my life is so disorganized. If you've found it, please phone 989-7138, and restore my sanity.

Man's knee-length tan sheepskin coat with white interior and collar; Jan. 26 at party in student ghetto. Of incredible sentimental value. Reward offered. No questions asked. Please call 284-6387.

### 374 - Personals

Is your closet getting too small? Gays and Lesbians of McGill offers an information/counseling talkline. Call with questions, problems or just to talk. Phone 398-6822 or drop by Union 417 M-F, 7-10.

End of January already here and all you've been doing is drinking beer? Want to talk about it? McGill Nightline 398-6246. 6pm - 3am nightly.

Slash your trash. Save your recyclables to bring to the Union building for Québec PIRG: Empowerment Week, Feb. 4-8. Don't start the revolution without me!

Dear Zooey: The Association for Baha'i Studies has misplaced your phone no. Could you please put a not in our box again. Thank you, ABS McGill.

"You don't go to school to become educated, just as you don't go to a garage to become a car."

### 383 - Lessons Offered

Apply for medicine. Your grades, interviews, letters and even the new 1991 MCAT are all vital. Take the course that prepares you for each aspect. Call ... C-U-IN-MED.

LSAT, GMAT and GRE preparation courses - Take our 20 hour intensive weekend courses prior to each exam. Tuition fee - \$190. For information call 1 800 387-5519.

### 385 - Notices

Lesbian/Gay discussion group held Fridays at The Yellow Door Coffee House (3625 Aylmer) at 17:30.

If you need help sorting out your legal problems call or drop by the McGill Legal Information Clinic in January. We're here for you from M to Fri., 10-5 pm. • 398-6792 • Rooms B20, B21, B01B of the Student Union Building.

I'm a user friendly computer looking for a hardware person. Meet me at the Computer Expo in the Union Ballroom, January 30 & 31, 1991.

Is the cold getting you down? Well, don't frown. Go to Panama City Beach (Florida). It's not out of reach. Only \$219. Call Shakufé. 286-4497.

Audition February 22nd. Singer-Actor(s) Musical Revue. Call 487-1204 after 5:00 pm.

At St. Martha's this week ... a wrap-up of Development Week. Guest Leroy Sua, McGill Theology student from Liberia will lead an informal, ecumenical worship service. 3521 University, 10:30 am. Everyone welcome! Info: 398-4104.

Robbie Hart, McGill grad and filmmaker will screen two of his films on development issues, Wedn. Jan. 30th, 7 pm in the Newman Centre, 3484 Peel. Free Info: McGill Chaplaincy, 398-4104.

GALOM's Movie Night presents "André's Mother" w/Richard Thomas & Sada Thompson. Jan. 31st at 7:00pm in Room 310. All welcome. Refreshments served.

The mystical dimension: An Intro to Kabbalah Thursdays 3-4 pm. Explore the deeper meaning of Jewish texts and practices. 6 week mini-courses beginning Jan. 31, Hillel 3460 Stanley; for more info call 845-9171.

Herring, bunnies, more than sharks. Definitely, submission deadline - March 11, please or Kate gets it! Red Herring, Union 406, 398-6816.

Coming soon to a Lecture Hall near you! Feb. 4-7, 1991.

Access McGill lives! Meeting on Tuesday, February 5 at 2:00 pm. Rm. 401 Wilson Hall.

### 389 - Musicians Wanted

Seeking singer, bassist and keyboardist for serious jamming. Blues rock influences plus originals. Have permanent local and performance opportunities during the summer. Phil 482-2308.

### 393 - Parking Services

Parking available immediately. 30 second walk from campus. 481-5911.

## Calling all news writers and potential news writers.

Come to the news meeting. Thursday at 16h in the basement of the Union Building, B-03.

### SPRING BREAK

## DAYTONA BEACH

- High quality beachfront accommodations for 7 exciting nights.
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Shakufé  
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Deadline: Feb. 5, 1991

ARRANGEMENTS BY INTERCAMPUS PROGRAMS

The McGill Savoy Society Presents

## YEOMEN of the GUARD



• A GILBERT & SULLIVAN OPERETTA •  
At Westmount Highschool Auditorium  
4350 Ste.-Catherine W. (Metro Atwater)

January 24, 25, 26 at 8:00 pm  
January 27 at 5:00 pm  
January 31 and  
February 1 & 2 at 8:00 pm

TICKETS  
\$10.00 General  
\$6.00 Students & Seniors

INFORMATION  
398-6820



The  
Western  
MBA

Canada's "Preeminent" Business School is looking for future business leaders.

The Director of the MBA Program from The University of Western Ontario will host a discussion of the Western MBA Program. Please join us for this informative session.

Date: February 6, 1991  
Time: 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Queen Elizabeth Hotel  
Galerie 3 Room  
900 Rene Levesque Blvd. West  
Montreal

## EVENTS HIGHLIGHT

Mrs. K, a Russian immigrant in her early 80's, returned home from the hospital after recovering from her second heart attack. Shortly after, her landlord informed her that if she didn't move by the end of the month, he would change the locks on her doors and dispose of her furniture.

This is a true story.

Luckily, Mrs. K knew that this harassment by her landlord was illegal and she contacted her local community group who were able to help her with their accumulated experience and support.

Many tenants have similar experiences with their landlords, including harassment and intimidation to pay large rent increases, neglect of deteriorating buildings, refusal to spray for cockroaches, lack of sufficient heating, refusal to carry out necessary repairs, etc.

Many McGill students are living on their own for the first time or are recent arrivals in the province of Québec. The Québec PIRG Housing Project has devised the R.O.A.C.H. AWARD (Residence Owners Award for Crummy Housing) to raise awareness on these issues and to inform students of their rights as tenants. Forms can be picked up at tables during the QPIRG Student Empowerment Week (Feb. 4-8) or on Screw your Landlord Day (Tues Feb 5th 11-4 in room 302). Stop by the QPIRG office 505 Eaton Building. For info, call Gary 398-7432.

Tenants rights info can also be found at the Legal Information Clinic in the basement of the Union Bldg. or call Bennett's Housing Hotline 488-0412.

## AUDITIONS

Kings Productions, the world's #1 producer of entertainment, is holding auditions for the spectacular 1991 season at CANADA'S WONDERLAND, Toronto, Ontario. Make your audition a show we can't do without! For additional information, call the Canada's Wonderland Entertainment office at 416/832-8356.

MONTREAL, QUEBEC  
Wednesday, February 13  
McGill University  
Student Union Ballroom, 3480 McTavish  
12 noon-2 p.m. Singers  
2 p.m. Dancers Registration  
12 noon-2 p.m. Musicians, Specialty Acts, Technicians

MONTREAL, QUEBEC  
Le mercredi 13 février  
Université de McGill  
Salle de bal de l'université des étudiants  
3480 Rue McTavish  
12h à 14h Chanteurs  
14h Danseurs Registration  
12h à 14h Musiciens, Numéros de variétés, Postes techniques

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# Learning without building schools

by Robin LeBaron

Academia may inspire contemplation of the world, but it doesn't encourage critical study of its own internal workings.

According to Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, this lack of introspection is not an accident, but a reflection of the structure of formal education. As an alternative to formal education, Freire proposes a new approach to learning based on participation and an understanding of society.

Formal education, Freire argues in his 1968 book *Pedagogy of the Oppressed*, perpetuates existing social structures. But his alternative, "popular education" inspires social change.

According to Freire, formal education is based on a 'banking' mentality. Information is prepared and transmitted by an educator. Students memorize the information without thinking about or understanding its implications on their own lives.

As Freire describes it, students become empty receptacles waiting to be filled, instead of creating their own knowledge.

This arrangement reinforces social hierarchies by re-enacting them. It also inhibits students from developing critical faculties. Popular education, by contrast, involves people in the process of their own education.

"Popular education is about relationships between people in different areas of work" said Colleen Lashuk, a member of the McGill Latin American Awareness Group. "It's a process in which people can help to create their own knowledge."

Lashuk is an organizer of this weekend's conference on popular education in North and Latin America.

## Facilitating Interest

Freire developed his ideas while teaching literacy in Northeastern Brazil during the sixties. The people he taught were living in extreme poverty under oppressive social conditions.

"The problem of teaching literacy to adults is to make it interesting," said McGill professor Philip Oxhorn. "You have to make reading relevant to people's lives and experiences." Popular education makes learning interesting and relevant by linking it directly to social change.

The process of popular education is usually initiated by a community organizer or facilitator. The organizer poses questions, and encourages other community members to answer and to pose new questions from the basis of their own experiences.

The process is interactive, with both the facilitator and the other community members contributing and learning from each other.

The questioning process makes community members increasingly aware of the relationships between what is being learned and the social

context in which it is learned. History, for example, would be discussed not as abstract knowledge, but as something directly affecting those having the discussion.

The process also encourages awareness of the individual's place within society. Personal experience, rather than being dismissed, is valued as vital to a complete understanding of what is being learned.

"The people involved in the process are all equal," said Oxhorn. "Popular education is based on the

*"They make you think that using Windex is as good as having an orgasm."*

idea that the well educated should respect the ideas of the poorly educated, because their ideas have value."

The process by which people come to a fuller understanding of their existence within society was called 'conscientization' by Freire. This fuller understanding gives the socially oppressed both power and dignity.

'Conscientization' is not a static but a dynamic process. Because popular education evolves from interaction between community members and facilitators, no definitive guidelines or procedures can be recommended.

## Christian baseness

Popular education has had a broad and diffuse impact on politics within Latin America. Its commitment to participation, community involvement, and the relevance of the experiences of the poor has inspired many other social movements within the region.

"Popular education is a method for the poor to organize and have influence on society, as well as alleviating their living conditions," said Oxhorn.

Christian base communities were particularly strongly influenced by popular education methods. Base communities are groups of socially marginal persons who gather together to study the Bible in the light of their existing social conditions.

These groups are usually facilitated by church members committed to social justice and the elimination of poverty within the frame-

work of Christian values.

However, according to Oxhorn, many other groups, including unions, women's organizations and human rights watches, have also absorbed many of the ideas of popular education.

"The process of popular education gives people values associated with democracy," Oxhorn said. "It encourages sharing, reciprocity and solidarity."

Groups embodying the ideals of popular education were very important in the popular resistance to the authoritarian regimes of Latin America. In those countries which have effected some transition to democracy within the last decade, these groups have often been important in ensuring that the transition was carried through.

The diffusion of popular education methods may have changed Latin American society by providing new models for social relationships. "The promise of popular education lies in people who participate becoming attached to its values and bringing them to other areas of life: the family, government, and so on," Oxhorn claimed.

## And In Canada...

Popular education has had much less impact in the countries north of the Rio Grande. However, some educators and community organizers have been inspired by its methods and have found ways of applying them in different social situations.

Community organizer Deborah Barndt, for example, used photography and storyboards to help immigrant women in Toronto understand the society around them and the things they could do to deal with unfamiliar and difficult situations such as finding jobs, surviving Canadian bureaucracy, riding the metro, and so on.

Barndt has also used photographic storyboards to bring issues of identity, self image and advertising to the consciousness of the people she works with. The process can expose some of the class and race biases in advertising and help people understand the impact advertising has in their lives.

Barndt discusses her use of the storyboards in her book *Getting There*, co-authored by Feme Cristóbal and Dian Merino. They suggest this method of looking at advertising generates understanding and criticisms of cultural standards and norms.

"They make you think that using Windex is as good as having an orgasm," they cite one woman saying.

Lashuk suggests that popular education methods are useful not only for socially and economically marginal persons, but for everyone affected by the media and cultural influences of late capitalism. "There's a lot of alienation out there," she said. "Popular education techniques could be a useful way of giving the middle class a better idea of where they fit into the world."

The McGill Latin American Awareness Group has organized a conference on popular education to explore its potential and potential applicability in both Latin and North American societies.

The conference will be held Saturday, February 2 in the Leacock building. Registration begins at 8:30.

The first part of the conference will be devoted to speakers. Deborah Barndt will give the keynote address. Women from El Salvador and Chile will discuss their experiences with popular education in Latin America.

The afternoon will be devoted to workshops, including one organized by Luc Gaudet, who has been involved in popular theatre in Montréal.

Admission is \$3 for students and \$6 for other persons. Lunch and wine and cheese reception are included in the admission. Students are encouraged to attend. For more information, phone 398-6815.

DAILY GRAPHIC: COLLEEN LASHUK

